(b) whether industry sources say that this practice is not in conformity with liberalised economy and it should be done away with; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Some of the regulatory authorities including Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) are being headed by ex-bureaucrats.

(b) No such representation has been received regarding IRDA.

(c) Does not arise.

Allotment of Kerosene to Dealers in Orissa

2943. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted and being released at present to Grameswara Kero Fuels, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa;

(b) whether Government have received a number of representations from MPs for releasing allotted quota; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) For the months of June and July, 2003,132 kilolitres (kls) per month of kerosene was allotted and released by Indian Oil Corporation Limited to M/s. Grameswar Kero Fuels, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa.

(b) and (c) One request has been received by the Government in this regard. In the State of Orissa, Oil Companies make allocation to their dealers based on the district-wise allocation made by the State Government.

Allocation of Gas to Gujarat

2944. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the production of natural gas during the last three years;

(b) whether the allocation of 0.4 MMCMD of gas from December 2002 and 0.2 MMCMD of gas from March, 2003 to power stations of Gujarat was considered by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making the allocations; and

(d) by when the gas is to be allocated as demaded by Government of Gujarat considering the importance of Pipavav Power Project and shortage of power in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Gas production in the country during the last 3 years i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03 was as under:—

(Billion Cubic Metre)

2000-01	-	29.332
2001-02	-	29.621
2002-03	-	31.251

(b) and (c) Currently, as against the total allocation of around 120 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the supplies have been only around 65 MMSCMD. Therefore, it is not possible to consider fresh requests for allocation of natural gas at present.

(d) Revised Development Plan of Tapti field has not yet been approved by the Operating Committee of the field, which comprises representatives of the companies constituting the Joint Venture. Gas supplies for Pipavav Power Project will be firmed up after Revised Development Plan of Tapti field is agreed upon by the Operating Committee and approved by the Management Committee.

Delay in phasing out subsidies

2945. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing problems in phasing out subsidies on kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;